

HOME TO COLON

UNITED STATES IS EXPECTED TO ABANDON PANAMA.

Interview with a Politician, Who Thinks Recognition of Isthmian Republic Should Be Rescinded.

VIEWS OF DR. AROSEMENA

COUNSEL FOR THE PANAMA COMMISSION ARRIVES AT NEW YORK.

Says the Republic is Able to Maintain Its Independence with Aid from This Country.

BOGOTA, Nov. 21, via Colon, Nov. 24.—A prominent politician here, who is close to the government and thoroughly posted in the affairs of the administration, today characterizes the action of the United States on the isthmus of Panama as most unjustifiable. He added:

"Colombians hope that the reasonable and fair-minded people of the United States will bring such pressure to bear on the government at Washington that the result will be the saving of the isthmus to Colombia, and the protection of Colombia's unquestioned rights there. All Colombians protest, as would the people of other nations, against this aggression of the United States. Colombia is confident that justice will be done here, and all Colombians are unanimously resolved to sustain and defend the national integrity, even at any sacrifice. The Bogota government is receiving the support of all political parties, and there are daily made generous donations of gold and jewels to meet such expenses as may become necessary."

"The French colony resident at Bogota has unanimously offered the government its services and the protection of its interests. The interior of the country remains tranquil in the expectation of a favorable issue of the peace commission on which General Reyes' demands are now proceeding to Washington."

"American residents at Bogota seem surprised at the action of the United States on the isthmus and express confidence, in view of the enormous damage that would result to commercial interests and consideration of the most friendly relations existing between the United States and Colombia, that the United States government will retract the steps it has taken in Panama."

PANAMA, Nov. 24.—Advices from Bogota show that the United States' action on the isthmus is without foundation. On the contrary, the Colombian government is in complete agreement with the national and vice presidential candidates."

Gen. Eloy Alfaro, former President of Ecuador, it is reported, is coming to Panama on a special secret mission.

SITUATION AT PANAMA.

Dr. Arosemena Declares His Country Can Maintain Independence.

NEW YORK, Nov. 24.—Among the passengers who arrived today on board the steamer Segura from Colon were Dr. Pablo Arosemena, Minister of the Interior, and Dr. Delano, of the United States ship Dixie. Pablo Arosemena will act as counsel for the Panama commission which recently arrived from Colon. He is understood to bring information of the latest plans and desires of the Panama government and his arrival has been awaited by the members of the commission.

Dr. Arosemena, who is the lawyer by Roger L. Franham, the representative of Lawyer W. L. Cromwell, the counsel for the French Panama Canal Company. Dr. Arosemena in reply to a question concerning the payment of Panama said: "The payment of money will be a provision of the treaty. I have not been informed of the amount. It is signed. I did not believe it when I first heard the news, as I did not think that it would be signed so soon."

Speaking of present conditions at Panama and of his government, he said: "Things are quiet on the isthmus. The situation is moving smoothly. The junta, which consists of a governing board of three, will rule until the national assembly is convened. There may be in about two months. The constitution will then be adopted and there will be a change in the government. There will be of course, a President and a Cabinet. I cannot tell you whether there will be a Vice President, but much will be given to where there will be a substitute in case of resignation or death of the President."

Speaking of the attitude of the Colombian peace delegates in Cartagena, Dr. Arosemena said they were well received and that the conference would be a success. He thought Panama could maintain her independence without aid from the United States. "If we could procure vessels sufficient to defend our coast, it is practically impossible for Colombia to reach us except by landing through our shores. There is a most enthusiastic feeling on the isthmus. All parties are now united. We could put 10,000 men in the field. We do not want war. What we want is peace and prosperity."

PRASE FOR NASHVILLE'S CREW.

Letter of Commendation from Secretary Moody to Commander Hubbard.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—Secretary Moody today addressed the following letter of commendation to Commander John Hubbard of the cruiser Nashville, and the men under him, in connection with recent events at Colon:

"Sir—Your reports of the occurrences at Colon from the 22d to the 24th inst. during the recent revolution on the isthmus of Panama have been read by me with interest, who has expressed himself as being much pleased with your action, and desires that you should go on to the isthmus to take pleasure in doing, and wish to add that your actions throughout appear to be the result of a thorough knowledge of the situation, and a marked degree of promptness and decision, to a marked degree. I am, therefore, commending you and the men under your command, who were landed from the Nashville, for the service rendered by you and the men under you, and I forward to you the department's cordial commendation."

"You will please read this letter at general muster."

BONDHOLDERS WANT PAY.

Englishmen Trying to Hold Panama Responsible for Colombia's Debt.

LONDON, Nov. 24.—Foreign Secretary Lansdowne has requested the council of the foreign bondholders to supply further details of the Colombian loan. When drawn up these will be forwarded to Ambassador Durand and presented at Washington for the purpose of urging the rights of British bondholders in connection with the republic of Panama. From the council the following was secured:

"In regard to the reported statement of the Panama commission that Panama declines responsibility for the Colombian debt on the ground that when the greater part of the money was borrowed Panama was not included in Colombia, the facts appear to be as follows: Panama declared its independence of Spain Nov. 28, 1821, and in the solemn declaration of the revolutionary junta stated that the territory of the isthmus belonged to the republic of Colombia, to the Congress whereof it would, in due course, send its deputy. The war with Spain continued for some time thereafter, and in 1823 Colombia issued an external loan of \$10,000,000, the greater part of which was to be devoted to prosecuting the war of independence. In 1824 Colombia issued a further loan of \$2,750,000 for the same purpose. It would be surprising if Panama attempted to repudiate responsibility for the money which assisted her to become part of a free state."

The foregoing is the gist of a lengthy statement which will be forwarded to the British embassy at Washington.

PANAMA WILL OPPOSE PAYMENT.

PANAMA, Nov. 24.—Referring to the question of the Republic of Panama paying a part of the foreign debt of Colombia the Star and Herald gives the following data reckoned in gold of sums derived from the isthmus which were used exclusively for the benefit of other departments: Sales of railroad reserves, \$5,625,000; for extensions granted to canal companies, at least \$3,000,000; exemption paid by railroads for not constructing its line to Flamenco as per contract, \$250,000; sums paid by Panama, which Colombia should have paid, and which were nearly \$1,000,000. The paper adds: Still Panama is willing to declare the debt canceled and even will pay a big sum of Colombia's debts here for public services, but she must energetically reject any proposal from Colombian debt bondholders.

TREATY WITH NEW GRANADA.

Correspondence That Bears on the Present Situation in Panama.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—The Senate in executive session has made public the correspondence submitted by President Polk in 1847 in relation to the treaty of 1846 between the United States and New Granada. It is stated that these papers have never been published. They consist of protocols between Benjamin Bidlack, charge of the United States at Bogota, and Manuel M. Mallarino, secretary of foreign affairs for New Granada. There is a report by the latter official pointing out the advantage of the treaty to the United States in view of the attitude of Great Britain, which he declared would be a "disaster" to the United States if it were to be repudiated. He declared that the United States had a law in all matters concerning the commerce of foreign commodities.

In a communication to Secretary of State Buchanan Mr. Bidlack discusses the control of the isthmus, in which he says that Secretary Mallarino had said that if New Granada "ceded" to the United States the right of transit across the isthmus, he presumed the United States would guarantee to New Granada the isthmus, or at least as much of it as was required for the right of transit and free passage over the isthmus, which appeared to me to be becoming of both the parties. I am, therefore, in reflection, that in order to preserve the rights and privileges thus ceded, it would be both to the United States and to the United States thus to enter into an obligation to protect them. The guaranty extends only to the isthmus and anything like a general alliance is carefully avoided."

REYES MAY MAKE A BLUFF.

May Order Preparations for an Invasion of the Isthmus.

COLON, Nov. 24.—A person who is intimate with General Reyes, who has seen much of the general during the past few months and who is thoroughly familiar with the interior of Colombia, speaking to a correspondent today concerning the probable course which General Reyes will pursue at Washington, said he thought Reyes would make every effort, no matter how hopeless, to effect such a settlement of the Panama situation as would preserve the integrity of Colombia. Thinking that the United States would not be so strong if he had an armed force in the field, the correspondent's informant said it would be probable that General Reyes would order preparations for an attempt to invade the isthmus.

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